

Landowner and Lessee Deer Hunting Permits

Landowners play a major role in our deer management program and, as a result, have some privileges which have evolved over time. Periodically, conditions change which alters the original intent of privileges afforded to landowners and lessees requiring reconsideration of those privileges. For example, the lessee provision of landowner permits was created to allow tenant farmers that lived on and farmed land but did not own the property the ability to manage local deer numbers, currently there are very few of these situations still in existence. Additionally, over the last few years there has been an increase in the number of fraudulent acquisition and improper use of landowner permits. Therefore, we are considering changes to landowner and lessee permits to address these concerns.

Current privileges of resident landowners and lessees are as follows:

Qualifications for landowner permits

- Any Missouri resident who owns at least 5 continuous acres, and his or her immediate household members age 6 or older
- Any Missouri resident who leases and lives on at least 5 continuous acres owned by others, and his or her immediate household members age 6 or older.

Qualifying resident landowners and lessees who have at least 5 acres, and all members of their immediate household age 6 or older, may each receive:

- 1 Landowner Fall Firearms Turkey Hunting Permit
- 1 Landowner Firearms Any-Deer Hunting Permit
- 1 Landowner Archer's Hunting Permit
- 2 Landowner Archery Antlerless Deer Hunting Permits, depending on county availability.

Qualifying resident landowners and lessees who have 75 or more acres located in a single county or at least 75 continuous acres bisected by a county boundary, and all members of their immediate household age 6 or older, may each receive:

- All of the landowner permits listed above and
- Up to 2 Resident Landowner Firearms Antlerless Deer Hunting Permits, depending on county availability.

Qualifying resident landowners and lessees:

- Must abide by season dates, methods, limits and tagging/checking requirements.
- Must use landowner permits only on their qualifying property.
- May use their landowner permits to take deer on their land during all portions of the firearms season.
- May fill a Landowner Any-Deer Permit and a purchased any-deer permit. However, each hunter may
 only take one antlered deer during the firearms deer hunting season. May fill their no-cost Landowner
 Antlerless Permits and also purchase and fill additional antlerless permits where valid.

Please provide us your thoughts and comments about the current qualifications and privileges provided to landowners and how we might address the aforementioned concerns.